

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 7 to 12 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 7, 9 and 10 have been amended to clarify the subject matter recited therein. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority, but note the indication that none of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received. In a previous communication indicating the items that have been submitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, it has been indicated that the priority document has been submitted.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 paper, and cited references. Enclosed herewith is a supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449, and cited references. Applicants respectfully request consideration of the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449, and cited references with the next Office communication.

II. Objection to the Specification

With the Preliminary Amendment, dated April 4, 2002, Applicants have previously amended the abstract of the disclosure to remove "Figure 2."

III. Rejection of Claims 7 to 12 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 7 to 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,561,435 ("Kluegl"). Applicants respectfully submit that Kluegl does not anticipate the present claims at least for the following reasons.

Claim 7 recites, inter alia, the following:

. . . the at least one retaining flange extending over only a *portion* of a perimeter of the fuel injector.

As regards the "at least one retaining flange" of claim 7, the Office Action apparently relies on peripheral cylindrical collar 5 shown in Fig. 1 of Kluegl. Respectfully, it is submitted that collar 5 extends over an ***entire*** perimeter of the fuel injector shown there. Kluegl describes the collar 5 as ***cylindrical***. Thus, collar 5 is

described as a single collar that wraps around the fuel injector. This description indicates that the collar 5 covers the **entire** perimeter of the fuel injector. For at least this reason, Kluegl does not anticipate claim 7.

As for claims 8 to 12, which ultimately depend from claim 7, it is respectfully submitted that Kluegl does not anticipate these dependent claims for at least the same reasons given above in support of the patentability of claim 7.


Moreover, as regards to claims 9 and 10, for example, the Office Action incorrectly asserts that Kluegl's Figure 1 illustrates two collars made as separate components. Figure 1 illustrates a cross section of the fuel injector, cutting through the single cylindrical collar 5. When a figure illustrates a cross section of a cylindrical object, the figure illustrates the object as a semi-circle with two ends. Figure 1 illustrates two ends of a semi-circle of a cross section of the single cylindrical collar 5.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Kluegl does not anticipate any of claims 7-12. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is, therefore, requested.

IV. Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims 7 to 12 are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

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